

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, especially in an age when equal time is no longer required by law.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. When large companies control the airwaves we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what is good for our country. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules and reinstate the equal time doctrine, not weaken. This tyoe of abuse and public disregard demonstrates why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.